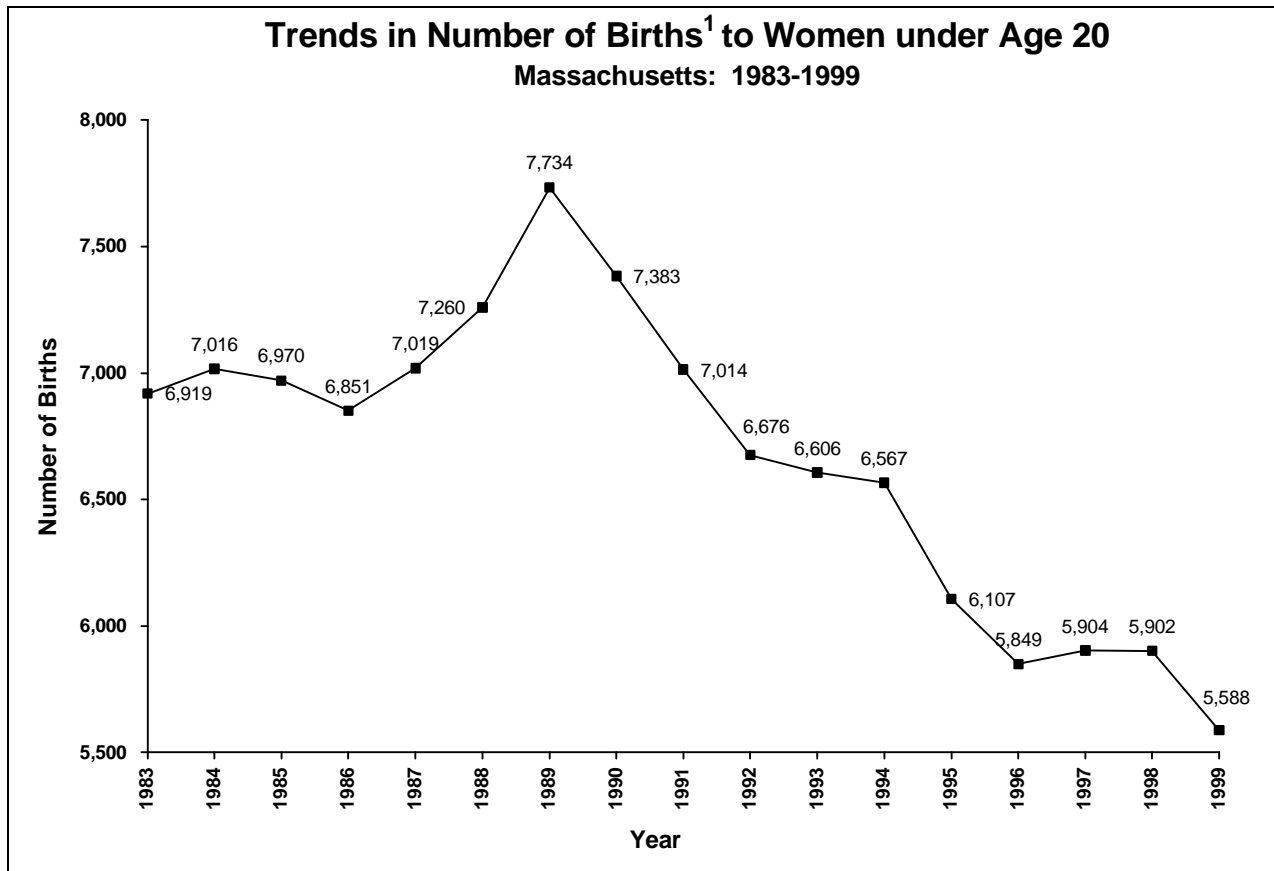


I.

*Demographic
and Birth
Characteristics*

Figure 1.

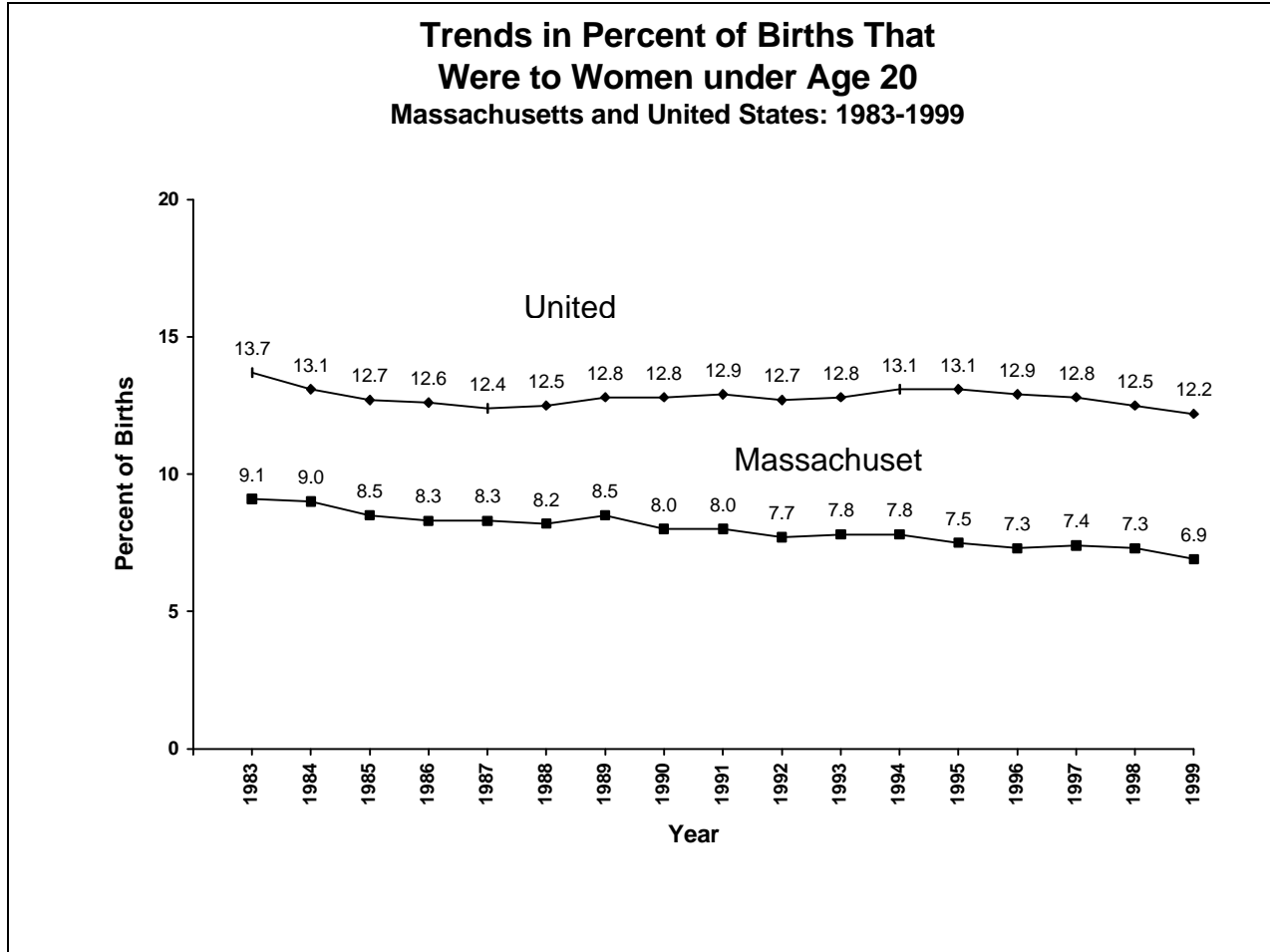


Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, 1983-1999

¹ Live births to Massachusetts residents

- The total number of births to women in Massachusetts in 1999 was 80,866 (data not shown).
- In 1999, 5,588 infants were born to women under age 20, a decrease of 314 births from the previous year. 1999 had the lowest number of teen births in the past two decades.
- Since its peak in 1989, the number of births to teens has declined by 27.7%. Despite this sharp decline over the period, the number of teen births in Massachusetts remained relatively stable between 1996 and 1998 before dropping considerably in 1999.

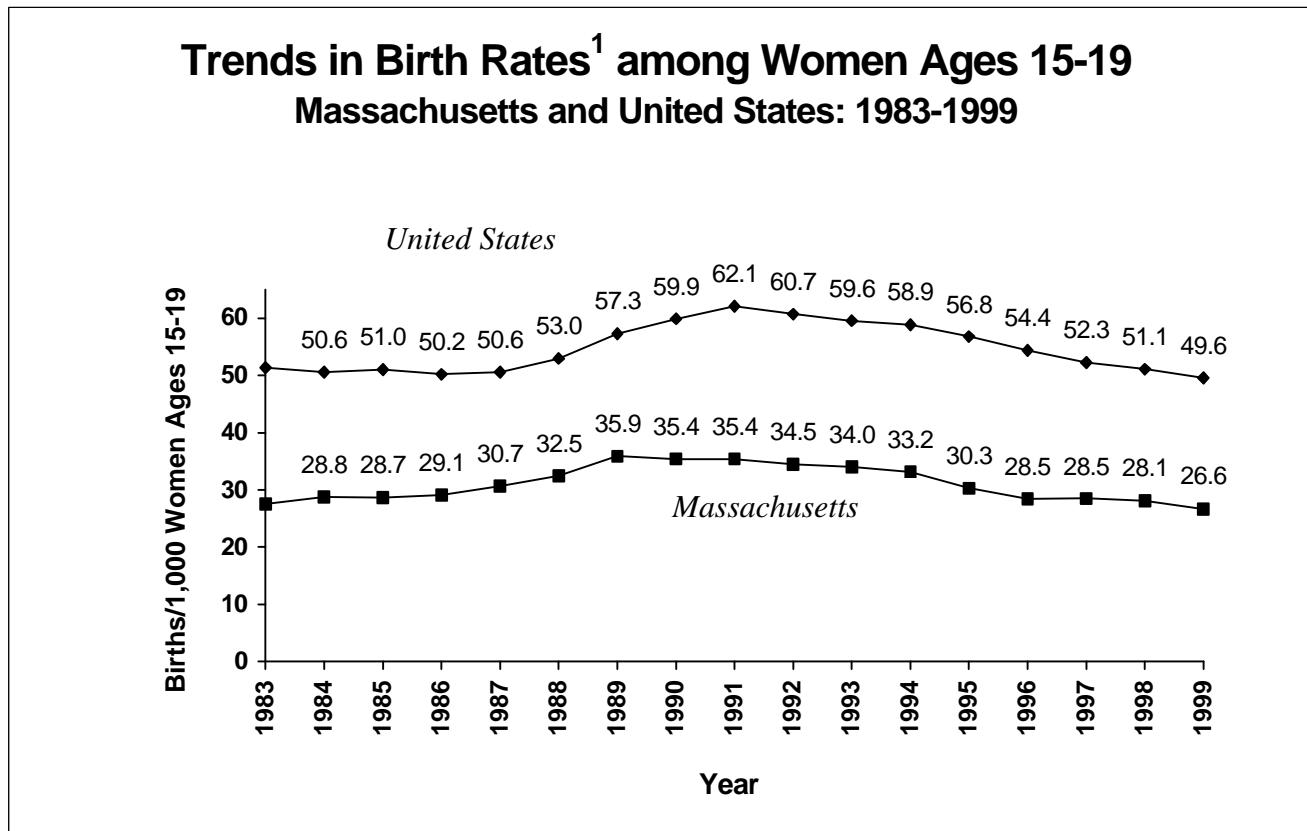
Figure 2.



Sources: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, 1983-1999;
National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), 1983-1999

- In 1999, only 6.9% of all births in Massachusetts were to women under age 20, compared to 7.3% in 1998.
- Since 1983, the percentage of births that were to women under 20 has decreased 24.2% from 9.1% to 6.9%, with 1999 representing the lowest percentage in that time period.
- The national percentage of births to teen mothers remained level between 1998 (12.3%) and 1999 (12.2%). While the national percentage, as in Massachusetts, also represented the lowest percentage between 1983-1999, the national percentage continues to be substantially higher than the percentage for Massachusetts (12.2% vs. 6.9%).

Figure 3.



Sources: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, 1983-1999;
National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), 1983-1999

¹ Number of births per 1,000 women ages 15-19

² Data from 1998 was recalculated per 1998 population estimates (see Technical Notes).

- The 1999 Massachusetts teen birth rate was 26.6 births per 1,000 women ages 15-19. This represents a decrease from 28.1 births per 1,000 women ages 15-19 in 1998. Following its high in 1989, the teen birth rate for Massachusetts has declined 25.9%.
- Although the Massachusetts teen birth rate remains substantially lower than the national teen birth rate (26.6% to 49.6% in 1999), the national rate has dropped more steadily in recent years while the Massachusetts rate has remained relatively constant.

Table 1.
Trends in Teen Births by Mother's Age
Massachusetts: 1994-1999

Mother's Age	1994		1995		1996		1997		1998		1999	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
12-19	6,567	100.0	6,107	100.0	5,849	100.0	5,904	100.0	5,902	100.0	5,588	100.0
12-13	24	0.4	19	0.4	11	0.2	19	0.3	14	0.2	10	0.2
14	131	2.0	98	2.0	80	1.4	84	1.4	65	1.1	63	1.1
15	371	5.6	356	5.6	342	5.8	290	4.9	271	4.6	244	4.4
16	822	12.5	721	12.5	687	11.7	694	11.8	663	11.2	570	10.2
17	1,244	18.9	1,203	18.9	1,115	19.1	1,121	19.0	1,120	19.0	1,039	18.6
18	1,758	26.8	1,648	26.8	1,666	28.5	1,613	27.3	1,710	29.0	1,679	30.0
19	2,217	33.8	2,062	33.8	1,948	33.3	2,083	35.3	2,059	34.9	1,983	35.5

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH: 1994-1999

- In 1999, 65.5% of all teen births occurred among women ages 18-19 years, 33.2% among women ages 15-17 years, and 1.3% among women under age 15.
- Over the last six years, the age distribution of teen women giving birth has remained relatively unchanged, with age and number of births being directly related. However, slight decreases in the number of births have occurred in the 14, 15, and 16 year old range.
- There were no increases in the number of births from 1998 to 1999 among the age categories, and the largest decrease in teen births occurred among teen women aged 16, a decrease of 93 births.

Table 2.
Trends in Teen Births¹ by Mother's Race/Hispanic Ethnicity
Massachusetts: 1994-1999

Mother's Race/Ethnicity	1994		1995		1996		1997		1998		1999	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total	6,567	100.0	6,107	100.0	5,849	100.0	5,904	100.0	5,902	100.0	5,588	100.0
White*	3,303	50.3	3,209	52.5	2,952	50.5	2,865	48.5	2,953	50.0	2,686	48.1
Black*	997	15.2	865	14.2	810	13.8	794	13.4	745	12.6	719	12.9
Hispanic	1,950	29.7	1,727	28.3	1,722	29.4	1,807	30.6	1,775	30.1	1,746	31.2
Asian*	188	2.9	163	2.7	164	2.8	214	3.6	185	3.1	215	3.8
Other*	126	1.9	134	2.2	155	2.7	205	3.5	239	4.0	218	3.9
Unknown	3	**	9	0.1	46	0.8	19	0.3	5	0.1	4	**

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH: 1994-1999

* Non-Hispanic

** Calculations based on 1-4 events are excluded.

¹ Births to teens ages 12-19

- In 1999, a six-year low of 48.1% of all teen births (<20 years of age) were to teen women whose race/Hispanic ethnicity was white non-Hispanic. Teen births to white non-Hispanic women, however, continue to account for the largest proportion of all teen births.
- Over the six-year period from 1994 to 1999, among all teen mothers, the percentage of infants born to black non-Hispanic women has decreased from 15.2% to 12.9%, while the percentage of infants born to Hispanic teen women has increased from 29.7% to 31.2%. The actual number of births to Hispanic teen mothers, however, has declined 10.4% (1,950 to 1,746) since 1994.
- Asian mothers continue to account for only a small percentage (3.9% in 1999) of all teen births. This percentage has increased slightly since 1994 (2.9%), as has the actual number of births to Asian teens.

Table 3.
Teen Births by Mother's Age and Race/Hispanic Ethnicity
Massachusetts: 1999

Mother's Age	White*		Black*		Hispanic		Asian*		Other*		Unknown		Total	
	N	% ¹	N	% ¹	N	% ¹	N	% ¹	N	% ¹	N	% ¹	N	% ¹
< 20	2,686	100.0	719	100.0	1,746	100.0	215	100.0	218	100.0	4	**	5,588	100.0
18-19	1,900	70.7	451	62.7	1,037	59.4	129	60.0	143	65.6	2	**	3,662	65.5
16-17	696	25.9	211	29.3	566	32.4	70	32.6	64	29.4	2	**	1,609	28.8
12-15	90	3.4	57	7.9	143	8.2	16	7.4	11	5.0	0	0.0	317	5.7

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, 1999

* Non-Hispanic

** Calculations based on 1-4 events are excluded.

¹ Percents are based on column totals. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

- Births to white non-Hispanic teen women most often occurred within the 18-19 year old age category, 70.7% of all teen births for that race. Other race/Hispanic ethnic groups showed a lower proportion of teen births in the 18-19 year old age category; black non-Hispanic (62.7%), Hispanic (59.4%), and Asian (60.0%).
- Teen births to women under age 18 remained the lowest among white non-Hispanic women accounting for 29.3% of all teen births for that group. The births to women under age 18 accounted for 37.2% of all teen births for black-non-Hispanic mothers, 40.0% of all teen births for Asian mothers, and 40.6% of all teen births for Hispanic mothers.
- Overall, the percentage of teen births to women in the 12-15 year age range decreased by 3.4% between 1998 and 1999 (from 5.9% to 5.7%), with the highest decline among Asian teens at 31.5% (from 10.8% to 7.4%), followed by Hispanic teens at 11.8% (from 9.3 to 8.2). The percentage of teen births to black non-Hispanics in the 12-15 age category increased 12.9% (from 7.0% to 7.9%) between 1998 and 1999 (1998 data not shown).

Table 4.
Births by Mother's Race/Hispanic Ethnicity and Age: Massachusetts: 1999

Mother's Race/Ethnicity	Under 18 Years		18 to 19 Years		Under 20 Years		20 Years & Older		All Ages	
	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²
Total Births	1,926	100.0	3,662	100.0	5,588	100.0	75,278	100.0	80,866	100.0
White	786	40.8	1,900	51.9	2,686	48.1	57,716	76.7	60,402	74.7
Black	268	13.9	451	12.3	719	12.9	5,125	6.8	5,844	7.2
African-American	203	10.5	308	8.4	511	9.1	2,321	3.1	2,832	3.5
West Indian	18	0.9	32	0.9	50	0.9	537	0.7	587	0.7
Haitian	6	0.3	42	1.1	48	0.9	945	1.3	993	1.2
Other Black	41	2.1	409	1.9	671	2.0	1,322	1.8	1,432	1.8
Hispanic	709	36.8	1,037	28.3	1,746	31.2	7,069	9.4	8,815	10.9
Puerto Rican	545	28.3	693	18.9	1,238	22.2	3,180	4.2	4,418	5.5
Dominican	73	3.8	142	3.9	215	3.8	1,340	1.8	1,555	1.9
Salvadoran	18	0.9	61	1.7	79	1.4	579	0.8	658	0.8
Central Amer.	24	1.2	42	1.1	66	1.2	653	0.9	719	0.9
Other Hispanic	49	2.5	99	2.7	148	2.6	1,317	1.7	1,465	1.8
Asian	86	4.5	129	3.5	215	3.8	3,923	5.2	4,138	5.1
Vietnamese	13	0.7	31	0.8	44	0.8	631	0.8	675	0.8
Cambodian	50	2.6	64	1.7	114	2.0	416	0.6	530	0.7
Chinese	1	**	9	0.2	10	0.2	1,155	1.5	1,165	1.4
Other Asian	22	1.1	25	0.7	47	0.8	1,721	2.3	1,768	2.2
Other	75	3.9	143	3.9	218	3.9	1,259	1.7	1,477	1.8
Unknown	2	**	2	**	4	**	186	0.2	190	0.2

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, 1999

** Calculations based on 1-4 events are excluded.

¹ Percents are based on column totals. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

- The number of births to women among teen and adult mothers differed substantially by race/Hispanic ethnicity. White non-Hispanic women accounted for 48.1% of all teen births and 76.7% of all births to mothers 20 years of age and older. Conversely, births to Hispanic women accounted for 31.2% of all teen births but only 9.4% of births to adult mothers.
- The number of births for teen mothers under 18 was highest among white non-Hispanic women accounting for 40.8% of all births in that age group, followed by the Hispanic (36.8%), black non-Hispanic (13.9%), and Asian (4.5%) categories.
- The number of births also varied substantially within specific ethnic subgroups. More than one in five teen births (mothers under 20 years old) were to Puerto Rican women (22.2%). Puerto Rican women similarly accounted for the largest proportion of all Hispanic teen births (71.2%), remaining stable from 1998 (71.3%). Cambodian women accounted for 53.0% of Asian births to mothers less than 20 years of age.

Table 5.
Births by Mother's Age, Place of Birth, and Race/Hispanic Ethnicity
Massachusetts: 1999

	Under 20 Years						20 Years and Older					
	U.S. States/D.C.		U.S. Territories ¹		Non U.S. Born		U.S. States/D.C.		U.S. Territories ¹		Non U.S. Born	
	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²
Total Births	4,248	76.0	550	9.8	790	14.1	58,609	77.9	1,705	2.3	14,964	19.9
White*	2,567	95.6	1	**	118	4.4	52,876	91.6	40	0.1	4,800	8.3
Black*	607	84.4	1	0.1	111	15.4	2,783	54.3	13	0.3	2,329	45.4
Cape Verdean	12	48.0	0	0.0	13	52.0	58	35.8	0	0.0	104	64.2
Haitian	10	20.8	0	0.0	38	79.2	23	2.4	0	0.0	922	97.6
West Indian/Caribbean	14	28.0	1	**	35	70.0	45	8.4	7	1.3	485	90.3
African American	499	97.7	0	0.0	12	2.3	2,227	96.0	6	0.3	88	3.8
African	4	**	0	0.0	9	69.2	9	1.4	0	0.0	645	98.6
Other Black	68	94.4	0	0.0	4	**	421	83.2	0	0.0	85	16.8
Hispanic	867	49.7	546	31.3	333	19.1	2,018	28.5	1,643	23.2	3,408	48.2
Puerto Rican	684	55.3	544	43.9	10	0.8	1,482	46.6	1,630	51.3	68	2.1
Dominican	63	29.3	1	**	151	70.2	127	9.5	7	0.5	1,206	90.0
Salvadoran	4	**	0	0.0	75	94.9	6	1.0	0	0.0	573	99.0
Other Central American	12	18.2	1	1.5	53	80.3	32	4.9	1	**	620	94.9
Other Hispanic	104	70.3	0	0.0	44	29.7	371	28.2	5	0.4	941	71.5
Asian*	54	25.1	0	0.0	161	74.9	280	7.1	4	**	3,639	92.8
Chinese	2	**	0	0.0	8	80.0	121	10.5	1	**	1,033	89.4
Vietnamese	8	18.2	0	0.0	36	81.8	2	**	0	0.0	629	99.7
Cambodian	21	18.4	0	0.0	93	81.6	2	**	0	0.0	414	99.5
Other Asian	23	48.9	0	0.0	24	51.1	155	9.0	3	**	1563	90.8
Other	149	68.3	2	**	67	30.7	496	39.4	4	**	759	60.3
Unknown	4	**	0	0.0	0	0.0	156	83.9	1	**	29	15.6

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, 1999

* Non-Hispanic

** Calculations based on 1-4 events are excluded.

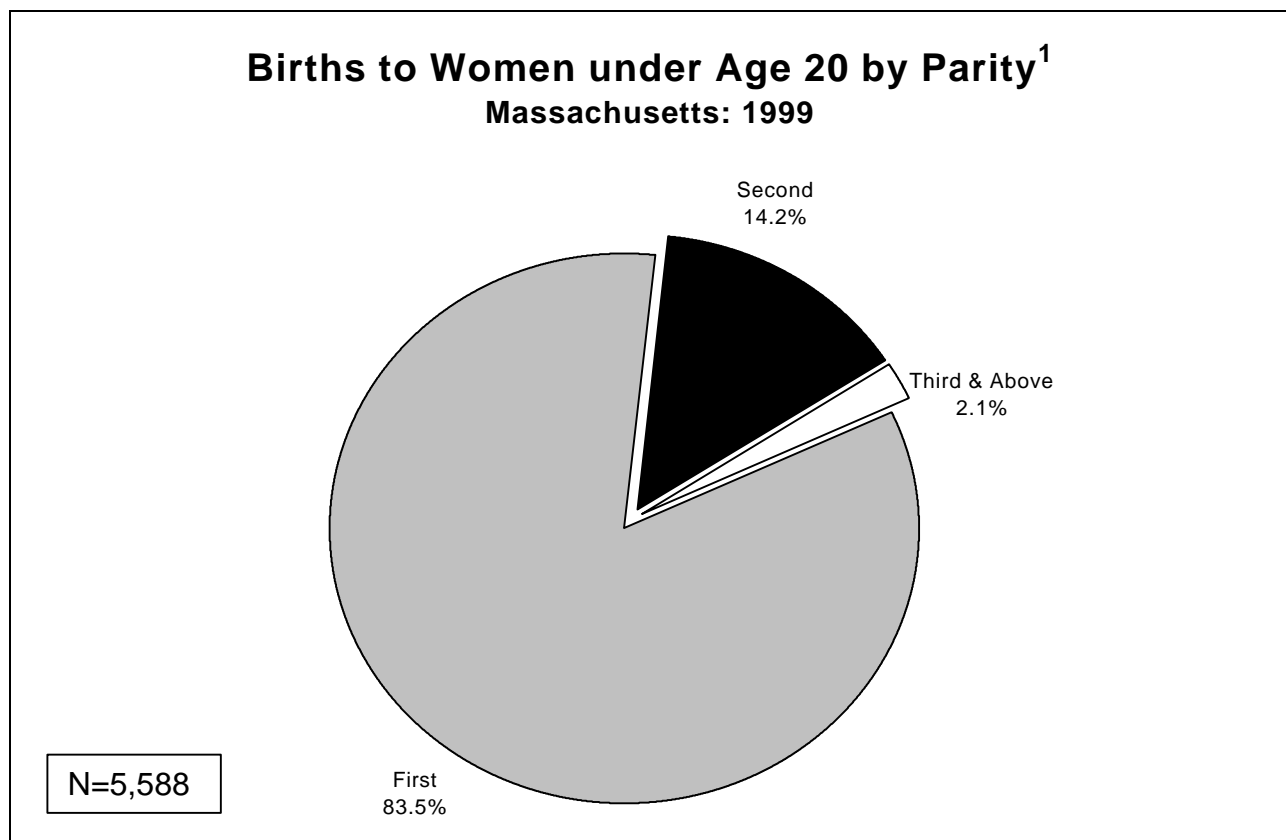
¹ U.S. Territories includes Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam.

² Percentages are based on known maternal country of origin; percentages are calculated on row totals within each age category.

³ Unknown: Mothers who did not indicate a race/ethnicity

- In 1999, 76.0% of all teen mothers were born within the United States or the District of Columbia; among older mothers (20 years and older), there was a slightly higher percentage (77.9%).
- A higher proportion of teen mothers were born within U.S. territories (9.8%) compared to adult mothers (2.3%).
- The percentage of mothers born outside the U.S. varied by race/Hispanic ethnicity within each maternal age group. Among teen births, the majority of black non-Hispanic mothers (84.4%) were born in the U.S., in contrast to Asian teen mothers, where a much smaller percentage (25.1%) were born in the U.S. Among older mothers 54.3% of black non-Hispanic mothers and 7.1% of Asian mothers were born in the U.S.
- Approximately one in three (31.3%) Hispanic teen mothers were born within US territories, compared to 23.2% of older Hispanic mothers. Regardless of age, there was considerable variation in the proportion of mothers born outside the U.S. across ethnic subgroups.

Figure 4.



Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, 1999

¹ Parity: The number of live infants ever born to the mother. Parity includes all previous live births as well as the infant named on the birth certificate.

- In 1999, 14.2% of teen births were to mothers with one prior live birth and 2.1% of teen births were to mothers with two or more prior live births. A total of 16.3% of teen births were to mothers with prior births. These figures showed little change from 16.5% in 1998 (data not shown).

Table 6.
Births to Multiparous¹ Mothers by Mother's Race/Hispanic Ethnicity and Age
Massachusetts: 1999

Multiparous Mother's Age	White*		Black*		Hispanic		Asian*		Other*		Unknown		Total	
	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²
All Ages	33,401	55.3	3,564	61.0	5,236	59.4	1,985	48.0	798	54.0	38	20.0	45,022	55.7
20 +	33,072	57.3	3,431	66.9	4,853	68.7	1,949	49.7	768	61.0	37	19.9	44,110	58.6
< 20	329	12.2	133	18.5	383	21.9	36	16.7	30	13.8	1	**	912	16.3
18-19	295	15.5	116	25.7	299	28.8	29	22.5	24	16.8	0	0	763	20.8
12-17	34	4.3	17	6.3	84	11.8	7	8.1	6	8.0	1	**	149	7.7

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, 1999

* Non-Hispanic

** Calculations based on 1-4 events are excluded.

¹ Multiparous women have had at least one previous live birth.

² Percentages are based on the total number of births in each race/Hispanic ethnicity-age group (data not shown).

- The percentage of teen mothers who had at least one prior live birth remained stable between 1998 (16.5%) and 1999 (16.3%). Among the younger teen mother category (ages 12-17), the percentage of multiparous mothers dropped from 8.6% in 1998 to 7.7% in 1999 (1998 data not shown).
- In 1999, among women ages 18-19, 28.8% of births to Hispanic women, 25.7% of births to black non-Hispanic women, 16.8% of births to Asian women, and 15.5% of births to white non-Hispanic women were to mothers who already had at least one live birth.

**Table 7. Births by Mother's Race/Hispanic Ethnicity, Age,
and Prenatal Care Payment Source: Massachusetts: 1999**

Mother's Race/Ethnicity	12 to 17 Years		18 to 19 Years		Under 20 Years		20 Years & Older		All Ages	
	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²
Total Births	1 926	100.0	3 662	100.0	5 588	100.0	75 278	100.0	80 866	100.0
Public	1 363	70.8	2 636	72.0	3 900	71.6	17 198	22.8	21 197	26.2
Private	86	4.5	142	3.9	228	4.1	8 473	11.3	8 701	10.8
HMO	423	22.0	772	21.1	1 195	21.4	47 217	62.7	48 412	59.9
Other	54	2.8	112	3.1	166	3.0	2 390	3.2	2 556	3.2
White	786	100.0	1 900	100.0	2 686	100.0	57 716	100.0	60 402	100.0
Public	451	57.4	1 155	60.8	1 606	59.8	8 184	14.2	9 790	16.2
Private	44	5.6	99	5.2	143	5.3	7 097	12.3	7 240	12.0
HMO	261	33.2	560	29.5	821	30.6	40 509	70.2	41 330	68.4
Other	30	3.8	86	4.5	116	4.3	1 926	3.3	2 042	3.4
Black	268	100.0	451	100.0	719	100.0	5 125	100.0	5 844	100.0
Public	187	69.8	361	80.0	548	76.2	2 762	53.9	3 310	56.6
Private	18	6.7	13	2.9	31	4.3	370	7.2	401	6.9
HMO	56	20.9	67	14.9	123	17.1	1 899	37.1	2 022	34.6
Other	7	2.6	10	2.2	17	2.4	94	1.8	111	1.9
Hispanic	709	100.0	1 037	100.0	1 746	100.0	7 069	100.0	8 815	100.0
Public	609	85.9	909	87.7	1 518	86.9	4 639	65.6	6 157	69.8
Private	19	2.7	18	1.7	37	2.1	404	5.7	441	5.0
HMO	68	9.6	101	9.7	169	9.7	1 888	26.7	2 057	23.3
Other	13	1.8	9	0.9	22	1.3	138	2.0	160	1.8
Asian	86	100.0	129	100.0	215	100.0	3 923	100.0	4 138	100.0
Public	61	70.9	101	78.3	162	75.3	928	23.7	1 090	26.3
Private	2	**	3	**	5	2.3	501	12.8	506	12.2
HMO	21	24.4	22	17.1	43	20.0	2 422	61.7	2 465	59.6
Other	2	**	3	**	5	2.3	72	1.8	77	1.9
Other	75	100.0	143	100.0	218	100.0	1 259	100.0	1 477	100.0
Public	54	72.0	109	76.2	163	74.8	672	53.4	835	56.5
Private	3	**	9	6.3	12	5.5	95	7.5	107	7.2
HMO	17	22.7	22	15.4	39	17.9	458	36.4	497	33.6
Other	1	**	3	**	4	**	34	2.7	38	2.6
Unknown	2	**	2	**	4	**	186	100.0	190	100.0
Public	1	**	1	**	2	**	13	7.0	15	7.9
Private	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	3.2	6	3.2
HMO	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	41	22.0	41	21.6
Other	1	**	1	**	2	**	126	67.7	128	67.4

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, 1999

*Calculations based on less than 5 events are excluded.

¹ Percentages are based on race/Hispanic ethnicity totals. Percentages for "Public" and "Private" do not add up to 100 because the total includes "Other" sources (i.e. Workers Compensation and Self pay. Data not shown).

² Public: Mass Health (Medicaid), Medicare, Healthy Start, free care and other government programs. Free care was included in this category for the first time in 1997 (see Technical Notes); therefore, these data are not comparable with prior reports. Public HMO enrollees are not included in this category.

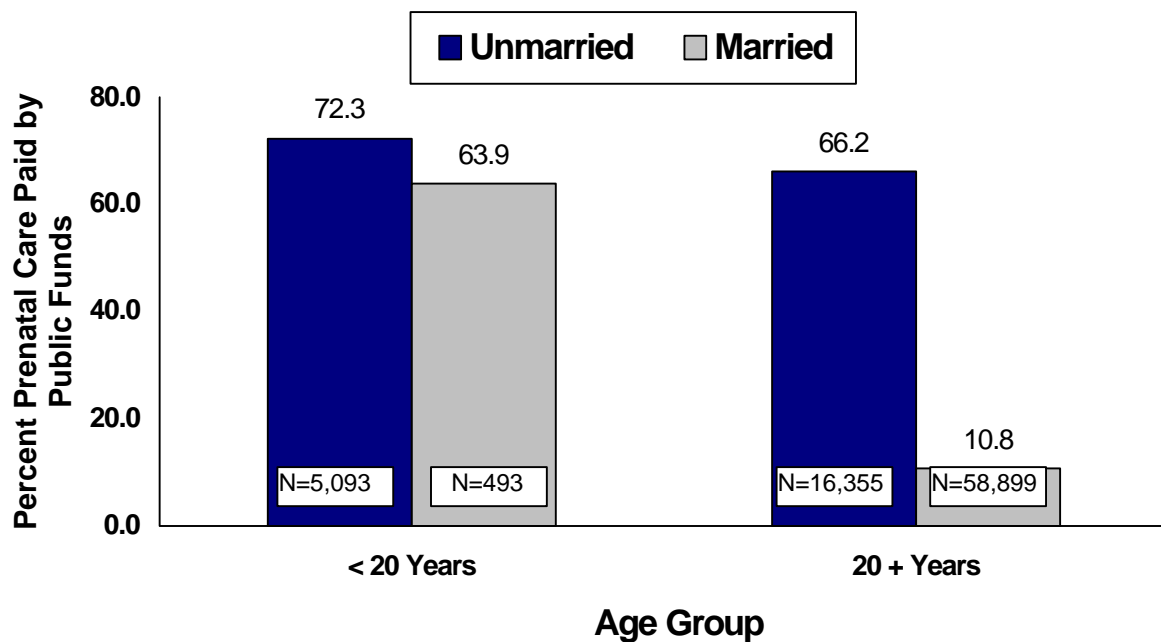
³ Private: Blue Cross/Blue Shield, other commercial insurance. Private HMO enrollees are not included in this category.

⁴ HMO: "HMO" may include Mass Health (Medicaid) recipients in managed care programs.

- The percentage of teen mothers whose prenatal care was supported through public funds was 71.6% in 1999. In contrast, only 22.8% of women 20 and older had their prenatal care supported through public funds in 1999. The opposite trend is present in the use of HMOs as a source of prenatal care. Only 21.4% of teen mothers in 1999 relied on HMOs as a source of prenatal care compared to 62.7% of adult mothers.
- Among teen mothers, the percentage receiving publicly funded prenatal care varied by race/Hispanic ethnicity: 59.8% of white non-Hispanic teen mothers, 76.2% of black non-Hispanic teen mothers, 86.9% of Hispanic teen mothers, and 75.3% of Asian teen mothers received publicly funded prenatal care.
- Compared with teen mothers, the percentage of adult mothers who received publicly funded prenatal care was lower within each race/Hispanic ethnicity group. The difference between teens and adults was most pronounced among Asian mothers (75.3% and 23.7%, respectively), and least pronounced among Hispanic mothers (86.9% and 65.6%, respectively).

Figure 5.

Age and Marital Status¹ of Mothers Using Public Payment Sources for Prenatal Care Massachusetts, 1999



Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, 1999

¹ Unknowns are excluded.

- In 1999, 72.3% of unmarried teen mothers and 63.9% of married teen mothers received publicly-funded prenatal care. The figure for unmarried teens increased from 69.3% in 1998 (data not shown).
- The contrast with regards to marital status was much more pronounced among adult mothers, where 66.2% of unmarried adult mothers received publicly-funded prenatal care compared to only 10.8% of married adult mothers.

Table 8.
Trends in Births to Unmarried Mothers by Age of Mother
Massachusetts: 1994-1999

Unmarried Mother's Age	1994		1995		1996		1997		1998		1999	
	N	% ¹	N	% ¹	N	% ¹	N	% ¹	N	% ¹	N	% ¹
All Ages²	22,302	26.6	20,857	25.6	20,429	25.5	20,640	25.7	21,191	26.0	21,448	26.5
20 +	16,416	21.3	15,370	20.4	15,147	20.4	15,300	20.6	15,841	21.0	16,355	21.7
< 20	5,886	89.6	5,487	89.9	5,282	90.3	5,339	90.4	5,350	90.7	5,093	91.1
18-19	3,433	86.4	3,210	86.5	3,145	87.0	3,216	87.0	3,300	87.6	3,229	88.2
12-17	2,453	94.6	2,277	95.0	2,137	95.6	2,123	95.6	2,050	96.2	1,864	96.8

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, 1994-1999

¹ Percentages are based on total number of births within each category.

² "All Ages" includes mothers of unknown age.

- The percentage of all Massachusetts births to unmarried women has remained stable since 1994. There remains a considerable difference between the marital status of teen and adult mothers.
- The most noticeable change between 1994 and 1999 occurred among mothers in the 12-17 year age category. In 1994, 94.6% of mothers in this group were unmarried compared to 96.8% of 12-17 year old mothers in 1999.

Table 9.
Births to Unmarried Mothers by Mother's Race/Hispanic Ethnicity and Age
Massachusetts: 1999

Unmarried Mother's Age	White*		Black*		Hispanic		Asian*		Other*		Unknown		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
All Ages¹	11,140	18.4	3,442	58.9	5,431	61.6	687	16.6	724	49.0	24	12.6	21,448	26.5
20+	8,697	15.1	2,754	53.7	3,839	54.3	514	13.1	531	42.2	20	10.8	16,355	21.7
< 20	2,443	91.0	688	95.7	1,592	91.2	173	80.5	193	88.5	4	**	5,093	91.1
18-19	1,672	88.0	424	94.0	912	87.9	96	74.4	123	86.0	2	**	3,229	88.2
12-17	771	98.1	264	98.5	680	95.9	77	89.5	70	93.3	2	**	1,864	96.8

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, 1999

* Non-Hispanic

** Calculations based on 1-4 events are excluded.

¹ "All Ages" includes mothers of unknown age.

- The overall percentage of births to unmarried mothers of all ages varied substantially by race/Hispanic ethnicity in 1999. Among births to women of all ages, 18.4% of white non-Hispanic women were unmarried, while 58.9% of black non-Hispanic, 61.6% of Hispanic women, and 16.6% of Asian women were unmarried.
- There is considerably less variation in marital status by race/Hispanic ethnicity among teen mothers (< 20 years of age); 91.0% of white non-Hispanic teen mothers, 95.7% of black non-Hispanic, 91.2% of Hispanic, and 80.5% of Asian teen mothers were unmarried.

Table 10.
Trends in In-Hospital Paternity Acknowledgment¹ by Age of Unmarried Mother
Massachusetts: 1994-1999

Unmarried Mother's Age	1994		1995		1996		1997		1998		1999	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
All Ages²	11,904	53.4	12,223	58.6	13,195	66.0	14,433	69.9	14,724	69.5	15,103	70.4
20+	8,944	54.5	9,251	60.2	9,939	67.1	10,906	71.3	11,253	71.0	11,751	71.8
< 20	2,960	50.3	2,972	54.2	3,256	62.8	3,526	66.0	3,471	64.9	3,352	65.8
18-19	1,785	52.0	1,833	57.1	1,999	65.0	2,199	68.4	2,210	67.0	2,180	67.5
12-17	1,175	47.9	1,139	50.0	1,257	59.7	1,327	62.5	1,261	61.5	1,172	62.9

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, 1994-1999

¹ Paternity acknowledgment: Voluntary self-acknowledgment by fathers or acknowledgment through legal action. This table reflects data collected in hospitals, at time of birth only (see Glossary for further explanation).

² "All Ages" includes mothers of unknown age.

- The overall percentage of births to unmarried women with paternity acknowledgment in the birth hospital increased from 53.4% in 1994 to 70.4% in 1999.
- Paternity acknowledgment occurred at a lower rate among unmarried teens than among unmarried adults. In 1999, 65.8% of births to unmarried teen mothers (ages <20) and 71.8% of births to unmarried adult mothers (ages 20+) included in-hospital paternity acknowledgement.
- An increase in paternity acknowledgment for infants born to unmarried teens occurred among young teen mothers (12-17 years old) between 1998 (61.5%) and 1999 (62.9%). The percentage of paternity acknowledgment for births to older unmarried teens (18-19 year old), however, remained stable from 1998 (67.0%) to 1999 (67.5%).

Table 11.

**In-Hospital Paternity Acknowledgment¹ by Unmarried Mother's
Race/Hispanic Ethnicity and Age
Massachusetts: 1999**

Unmarried Mother's Age	White*		Black*		Hispanic		Asian*		Other*		Unknown		Total	
	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²
All Ages	8,603	77.2	1,885	54.8	3,690	67.9	438	63.8	473	65.3	14	58.3	15,103	70.4
20+	6,854	78.8	1,565	56.8	2,644	68.9	323	62.8	353	66.5	12	60	11,751	71.8
< 20	1,749	71.6	320	46.5	1,046	65.7	115	66.5	120	62.2	2	**	3,352	65.8
18-19	1,222	73.1	205	48.3	614	67.3	66	68.8	72	58.5	1	**	2,180	67.5
12-17	527	68.4	115	43.6	432	63.5	49	63.6	48	68.6	1	**	1,172	62.9

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, 1999

* Non-Hispanic

** Calculations based on 1-4 events are excluded.

¹ Only includes births with in-hospital paternity acknowledgment (see Glossary for further explanation).

² Percentages are based on the total number of births to unmarried mothers within each category.

- Among women of all ages, in-hospital paternity acknowledgment varied widely by race/Hispanic ethnicity, ranging from a high of 77.2% among white non-Hispanic unmarried mothers to a low of 54.8% among black non-Hispanic unmarried mothers.
- The variation in paternity acknowledgment across race/Hispanic ethnicity groups was seen among births to both adult and teen unmarried women. Generally, however, in-hospital paternity acknowledgement was less common among younger mothers in each race/Hispanic ethnicity group. The only contradiction to this trend occurred among Asian women where in-hospital paternity acknowledgement was higher for unmarried teen mothers (66.5%) than unmarried adult mothers (62.8%).

Table 12.
Father's Age by Unmarried Mother's Age for Births with Acknowledged Paternity¹

Massachusetts: 1999

Unmarried Mother's Age	Father's Age													
	12-15		16-17		18-19		20-24		25-29		30 and Older		Total ³	
	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²
20 +	0	0.0	54	0.4	343	2.8	3,076	25.3	3,633	29.8	4,875	40.0	12,177	100.0
< 20	30	0.8	380	10.2	1,028	27.5	1,536	41.1	326	8.7	135	3.6	3,739	100.0
< 18	28	2.0	258	18.4	453	32.3	377	26.9	74	5.3	18	1.3	1,404	100.0
18-19	2	**	122	5.2	575	24.6	1,159	49.6	252	10.8	117	5.0	2,335	100.0
16-17	11	0.9	199	17.2	395	34.1	349	30.1	68	5.9	17	1.5	1,160	100.0
12-15	17	7.0	59	24.2	58	23.8	28	11.5	6	2.5	1	**	244	100.0

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, 1999

** Calculations based on 1-4 events are excluded.

¹ Only includes births with in-hospital paternity acknowledgment (see Glossary for further explanation).

² Percentages are based on the total number of fathers whose ages were identified by unmarried mothers within each category.

³ "Total" includes fathers with unknown ages.

- Among unmarried women ages 20 and older, 95.1% of the named fathers were also 20 and older. This figure remains essentially unchanged from 96.8% in 1998 (1998 data not shown). Among unmarried teens (<20 years of age), 53.4% of the named fathers were 20 and older.
- Among unmarried teen mothers ages 12-15, the percentage of named fathers who were 20 and older decreased from 17.5% in 1998 to 14.3% in 1999. Similarly, among 16-17 year old unmarried mothers, the percentage of named fathers who were 20 or older, dropped from 39.7% in 1998 to 37.4% in 1999 (1998 data not shown).